

**Washington, DC** – Today, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) voted to create new jobs and boost the economy by supporting small business innovation in research and technology. The bill modernizes the highly successful Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, more than doubling the amount of the grants small businesses can apply for and helping them engage in cutting-edge research.

**“Texas boasts over 2.1 million small businesses, providing economic opportunities to diverse groups of people and bringing innovative products and services to our communities,” said Congressman Gonzalez. “I am proud to support this bill that provides the tools to promote the growth of more small businesses, more jobs, and economic activity. The grants provided under the Small Business Research and Innovation Act will help get businesses off the ground and continue to drive innovation and new technology development in San Antonio.”**

The Small Business Research and Innovation Act will broaden the pool of businesses that participate in the programs by reaching out to diverse entrepreneurs, veterans, minorities and women. The bill will make it easier for small businesses to find financing, allowing them to decide how to raise capital. It also puts a greater emphasis on helping smaller firms bring their products to market.

**“I will continue my steadfast commitment to moving our community forward, by supporting key programs to enrich our small businesses, grow our economy, create jobs, and open windows of opportunities for the hard working people of San Antonio,” added Congressman Gonzalez.**

Since 1992, the SBIR and STTR programs have awarded 65,000 grants to small companies that are leading research efforts to cure diseases, strengthen national defense and reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. Without action by Congress, these programs will expire later this month.

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